

SB 15 -- General Assembly

Sponsor: Childers

This bill transfers responsibility for the "freshmen tour" from the chairs of the House Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee to the Legislative Academy. The tour of state-supported institutions is required to take place during the first two weeks of December following a general election. In addition to staff of the Committee on Legislative Research, other General Assembly staff is required to furnish the academy with assistance for the tour.

The bill establishes a Legislative Academy under the supervision of the Committee on Legislative Research. The academy will familiarize members of the General Assembly with the organization and operation of state government, state revenue sources, the appropriations process, the functions of legislative committees, and constitutional law. Senate members attending the legislative academy will spend two weeks on Senate rules and other matters of interest to the Senate. The academy will meet for at least 12 weeks between June 1 and November 1 following the first regular session. Members attending the academy will receive a per diem and expense allowance for each day of attendance.

The bill also establishes a Legislative Academy Advisory Committee made up of former members of the House of Representatives and Senate appointed by the Speaker and President Pro Tem. The committee will assist in the development of programming for the legislative academy. Each member will be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of duties.

The Legislative Academy and the Legislative Academy Advisory Committee expire on December 31, 2007.